

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 22

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel.

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Whereas Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, is widely respected throughout the world as a proponent of democratic principles;

Whereas Vaclav Havel's superb skills as a playwright and essayist helped promote democracy in Eastern Europe during the Cold War;

Whereas the plays of Vaclav Havel were instrumental in bringing international attention to the struggle for democracy in Czechoslovakia;

Whereas Vaclav Havel was imprisoned three times for his efforts to promote democratic thought and reforms in communist Czechoslovakia, yet maintained his convictions throughout;

Whereas Vaclav Havel was a cofounder of the human rights organization Charter 77 and the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted;

Whereas Vaclav Havel, as leader of the Civic Forum movement, was a key figure in the 1989 bloodless overthrow of the Czechoslovakian communist government known as the Velvet Revolution;

Whereas following the Velvet Revolution, Vaclav Havel was elected by the people as President of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in 1990, and following a peaceful split forming two separate states, elected President of the Czech Republic in 1993;

Whereas under the leadership of Vaclav Havel, the Czech Republic has been an important and valued member of the world community;

Whereas under the leadership of Vaclav Havel, the Czech Republic became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on March 12, 1999;

Whereas during Vaclav Havel's time in office, the economy of the Czech Republic has become one of the most developed in Eastern Europe;

Whereas today, the Czech Republic is a valuable ally of the United States in the war against terrorism;

Whereas Vaclav Havel has been praised as one of the world's great democratic leaders and has been awarded many international prizes recognizing his commitment to peace and democratic principles; and

Whereas Vaclav Havel will step down as President of the Czech Republic on February 2, 2003: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) honors the life-long commitment of Czech
4 Republic President Vaclav Havel to human rights
5 and democracy;

6 (2) recognizes the exceptional achievements of
7 Vaclav Havel as playwright and president; and

8 (3) congratulates Vaclav Havel for his out-
9 standing service to the people of the Czech Republic.

Passed the House of Representatives February 11,
2003.

Attest:

Clerk.